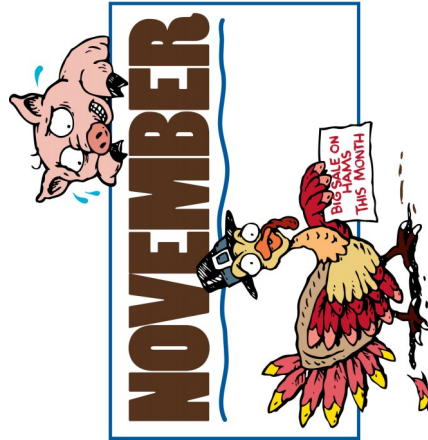
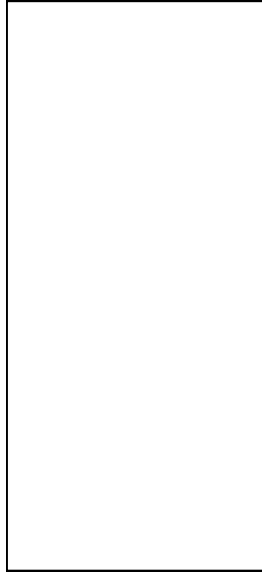


Weekly Worship: Saturday @ 5:00 pm, In Person & Live Stream Online, and Sunday at 8am and 10:30am, In Person. Worship Updates will be posted on [www. faithlutheraneldridge.com](http://www.faithlutheraneldridge.com) and on our Facebook page.

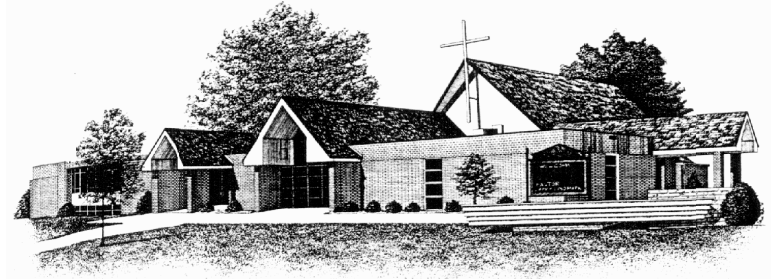
Faith Lutheran Church
 500 W. LeClaire Road
 Eldridge, IA 52748

Non-Profit Organization
 PERMIT NO. 1
 Eldridge, IA 52748

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Faith Lutheran Church



AMBASSADOR November 2021

Rev. Dr. Carrie Lewis La Plante
Rev. Heather Geest

500 W. LeClaire Road
 Eldridge, IA 52748
 (563) 285-4501

www.faithlutheraneldridge.com
faitheldridge@netins.net



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**Grace-Gifted, Faith-Lifted
 Called to Share, Seek, and
 Serve Christ**



Dear Friends in Christ,
 Paul writes at the end of his first letter to the Thessalonians, “Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you” (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18).


I love this directive from Paul because it reminds me that regardless of the circumstances in which I find myself, I can still find things to celebrate, rejoice about, lift up in prayer and give thanks for, even when that might not be the first posture I would choose on a given day. As we enter into this season of Thanksgiving, I do rejoice and give thanks for all of the things that we have been able to do, all of the ways that we have continued to share the good news of God in Jesus Christ in this place and out in the community, and all that God is continuing to call us to do and to be as we move into the future, uncertain though it may feel.

First, I would like to give thanks for all of the notes of appreciation and gifts that have been given to me and to the whole staff during the month of October. It means more than you know to receive such kindness. It has been fun this year to extend the appreciation beyond the pastors to include the whole staff as we have been surprised together in the generosity that has been shown.

I also would like to give thanks for all of you who have continued to serve in various ways in God’s ministry in these days. We give thanks for the ushers, the counters, the musicians and directors, our videographers, the VBS leaders, the Sunday School teachers, the Confirmation small group leaders, mentors, and parents who provide our weekly dinners, the high school youth group leaders, our custodian, the Congregation Council members and ministry team and committee members, the Ambassador folders, the quilters, our adult mission trip participants, and so many more. Your presence in our midst and your commitment to helping us share the good news of Jesus Christ in different and creative ways in the midst of a pandemic brings joy and hope.

I rejoice in the new faces that we are seeing in worship, both in person and online. I give thanks the Spirit continues to call people to community in this place so that we can make impact the world around us using the gifts that God has given each of us together. I look forward to welcoming nine new members on October 31, and finding ways in which their lives and gifts can integrate into our ministry and help us to dream God’s dreams for this place into the future.


I give thanks for the ministries that we have been able to do again this year. The great time that we had as Knights of North Castle during VBS this



November BIRTHDAYS

Birthday wishes are extended to the following members who are celebrating birthday number 70 or above.


Linda Johnson	November 4	Mike Staples	November 16
Mary Ann Anderson	November 7	Deborah Peterson	November 25
Sharon Goldsmith	November 8	Mary Arp	November 30
Myra Kreiter	November 11		



November ANNIVERSARIES

Anniversary wishes are extended to the following members who are celebrating anniversaries of 50 or more years. Congratulations!

Darrell & Barbara Weltzin	November 7, 1970	Richard & Shirley Cole	November 22, 1958
Ronald & Nancy Meyer	November 16, 1962	Ron & Mary Arp	November 30, 1963




We welcome through baptism:

Hazel Tracy Cronkleton, October 17, 2021
daughter of Ali and Matthew Cronkleton

Adrianna Michelle Rogers, October 24, 2021
daughter of Brianna and Doug Rogers

Tuesday Afternoon Bible Study

Join us on each Tuesday afternoon for a Bible study that looks at the lectionary texts for the week. **Tuesday afternoons at 1 pm.** Masks will be required and spacing will be implemented. We look forward to studying the scriptures together.




MISSIONARY SPONSORSHIP

Thank you to the La Plante family for sponsoring the Bencke family, and to Tom and Pam Carlson for sponsoring John Chima and Denisse Grefa in November. The cost for sponsorship is \$40/month each for our Compassion Children John and Denisse and \$45/month for the Bencke family. You can sign up online on Faith’s web page, or by calling the church office.

Thank you for your support!

Anniversaries



to Celebrate

Attention Faith Members that have been or would have been married 50+ years.....

Since we are not having an in-person dinner this year, we want to help you celebrate this special occasion with a sweet treat from the Eastern Iowa Baking Company in Eldridge, Iowa. (Corner of Franklin & 2nd St.)

Please contact the church office if you would like to receive a gift card on us. RSVP to 563-285-4501 by November 15th, 2021. The Fellowship Team will mail your gift card to your home and you can choose when you want to enjoy the sweet benefits - Compliments of Faith Lutheran Church!

50+

Anniversary



Nominating Committee

If you're interested in putting your skills to use or living out your passion to positively affect our community (both geographic and faith!) in 2022 and beyond, please prayerfully consider joining The Faith Lutheran Church Council. There are openings to lead the Property, Service in the World, Stewardship, and Worship and Music committees. In addition, there are two openings for Synod Assembly Delegates. If one of these appeals to you OR you

wish to know more about any of them, please reach out to a member of the Nominating Committee (Brea Harms, Sue Kirst, Linda Golinghorst, Kelly Wyatt, and Brad Yanke) by Wednesday, November 3rd. We thank you for your thoughtful considerations in the event a nominating committee member contacts you. Many hands lighten the load for the church and help enable our mission!



Food Pantry Needs for the month of November are chili fixings, muffin mixes and fruit.

summer brought new life back to this community. The amazing group of youth and adults who traveled to Lutheran Lakeside Camp at the end of July for "The Best Week Ever" as we learned that God's promises are greater than our problems reminded us of the joy that comes in spending time learning and growing in God's creation. The Church Picnic brought together members and friends of all ages as we shared a meal, laughed together, and played all kinds of crazy games in the lawn. We were able to have our pancake breakfast with the help of our wonderful cooks to kick off the Sunday School year. We have begun adult studies again as we are learning to grow closer to God together. We celebrated Homecoming with the community as we brought back our Homecoming Tailgate thanks to the work of the Fellowship and Service in the World teams. In all of these ways we shared God's love with one another and the community around us.

I give thanks for the children and youth of this congregation and for the ways in which they are reaching out with the love of Jesus. I am grateful that our programs have been able to be more like what we have been used to in the past. We are back to playing silly games as part of our Confirmation lessons and participating in fellowship and service activities even as we keep up the mentor program that we began last year. We are also able to do some of the larger gatherings that we missed out on last year, like the IGNITE Quad Cities Confirmation Gathering that we had this week that brought Confirmation students from Lutheran congregations all around the Quad City area together for an evening of fun and learning. I am rejoicing in our high school youth as they continue to invite their friends to experience the love and joy of Jesus through Youth Group. We look forward to next summer when we will travel to Minneapolis for the ELCA Youth Gathering for an experience that has changed the lives and faith of so many of our youth.

Finally, I give thanks and rejoice in all of you who continue to support the ministry of this place. Even though we are on a venture of which we cannot yet see the ending on paths that are unknown, we trust that God's hand is leading us and God's love is supporting us. Through financial support, prayer support, worship together, learning together, and the time spent in fellowship, we live together into God's mission for this place and share God's love beyond this place in a time when that is needed more than we know. As we continue on the way, together we will rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances, because this is the will of God for all of us.

Have a blessed Thanksgiving as you celebrate God's gifts with family and friends! *Pastor Carrie*

We are grateful.

We would like to welcome three new members to our Worship and Music Team. Carol Judge will be leading our Faith Families. Lucas Golinghorst will be leading our livestream crew for worship. Linda Szemkus will be taking the lead of Altar Guild. We thank these new members for responding to the call to serve in this important ministry. We are grateful for Nancy Meyer who is retiring from leading the Altar Guild.

We are thankful for Tom Bauer for agreeing to share his time and talent to develop a safety policy for our congregation.

We continue to be thankful for all of those who gather for worship online, at home or in person as well as those who serve in worship. We also give thanks for those who have gathered to join or serve for Sunday school, confirmation, and youth. Gathering together is an important part of being a church family.

Council Business.

Communications/Sharing: Joni King shared her Faith Story with council this month, including how she felt called to help with our Youth Ministries over the past three years. Gary King visited the council for a few minutes to share his thanks and to share a suggestion he has with us.

Updates: We reviewed the result of the Audit (2018-19-20). The Finance Committee will work to improve our processes based upon the results of the audit. We reviewed the status of the Mutual Ministry appointments, the Nominating Committee work, our Annual Review Action Items and our Congregational Wide Goals. Pastor Carrie shared a summary of the Non-rostered staff Annual Review. Our employees gave us feedback that they are grateful for their work in this place, especially during the past two years.

Actions: The council and teams have submitted a preliminary budget for 2022. The finance committee has reviewed it and has given their feedback. We are working to clean up unused or unnecessary line items, ensure that remaining items have required supporting details, and include items that are necessary to grow in our ministries. Council discussed the fact that two people were injured in our building recently. We need to learn from this and work to prevent future injuries. Incident reports are being filed with our insurance and Tom Bauer will be leading efforts to define a safety policy that will help us to be more safe. We performed our annual membership review, which helps us to know who our active



POP-UP Christmas Program

As a simple way to celebrate the unexpected joy and wonder of Christmas we will be having a spontaneous Pop-up Christmas children's program on December 12th during the 10:30am worship service. All children are welcome to participate. Because of the circumstances, we are keeping it simple and letting the children lead the congregation in telling the story

of Jesus birth. **Children will be practicing Christmas carols during Sunday School beginning the middle of November.** We hope you come make a joyful noise with us.

Families Celebrate Advent and Christmas 2021-22

Advent is the first season of our church year. It is time of preparation, waiting and watching as we thoughtfully reflect on the coming of Christ. As a church we are invited to intentionally step back from the hustle of the holiday season and instead focus our thoughts on the gift God has given us in his son Jesus who came from heaven to earth to be our Savior.

As a fun way to celebrate Advent and to count down the days until Christmas, our church has purchased Families Celebrate Advent and Christmas. It is a colorful deck of cards that is full of rituals, prayers and reflections. Even the busiest schedules can create a new after-meal ritual, use them as decorations, or carry them on the go.

If your family would like to explore the entire season and Advent to Christmas and would like a deck of cards for your home, please sign up on the bulletin board, or contact Pastor Heather.

We have done our initial registration for the ELCA Youth Gathering, June 24-28, 2022. We hope that even more youth will join us, but those who are going at this time are Cal Behm, Rylee Daniels, Lukas Fenn, Addison Harms, Carter Harms, Makenzie Housenga, Gehrig Kirst, Abby La Plante, Austin Lee, Mitchell Mess, Kaycee Newman and Ryan Stickler. If you are in grades 8 through 12 and would still like to go, please see Pastor Carrie for the paperwork, and return the paperwork and a \$150 deposit (checks made out to "Faith Lutheran Church" with "Youth Gathering" in the memo line) by Sunday, November 21, so that I can add you to the Early Bird registration. There will be opportunities to sign up after that time, but the deposit amount will increase. We are looking forward to a wonderful trip where we will grow in faith in our boundless God. For more information about the Gathering, go to www.elca.org/gathering.



On the beautiful evening of September 22, we released the Confirmation kids in groups of six to participate in a fun Fellowship night of Cell Phone Scavenger Hunt. Each group was assigned a list of things to look for in their assigned neighborhood, then capture the images with a phone, and try to be the first team back at church. What a fun evening!

The rest of this month, we studied the Ten Commandments, which God presented to Moses to guide God's people to live their lives according to God's rules. The first three commandments relate to our relationship with God, the last seven relate to our relationships with others. Martin Luther's Small Catechism attempts to explain the meaning of each of the Commandments.

Wednesday, October 13, was a time set aside for the Confirmation kids to meet with their Mentors, as the first of five sessions got underway, to get to know each other better.

The High School kids have been enjoying their friends outside on the front patio. Most of the time, we have had nice evenings, however there were times snuggling in a warm blanket helped to make the cold autumn air tolerable. These kids are troopers!

We have had between 9-12 kids at High School Youth Group, some coming and going as their schedules demand. After highs and lows and a Bible Study, we played, "What's on your phone?" where kids got varying points for different items such as a certain app, number of contacts, and their ringtone, to name a few.

Last week, it was pretty chilly and there was a good chance of rain, so the High School kids went inside for snacks and one of their favorite games, "Blindfolded Musical Chairs". It is hilarious seeing them drop to the floor when the music ends, and fight each other for chairs!

Respectfully submitted, Joni King

members are. We agreed upon plans for Christmas Eve worship services (2pm, 4pm, 9pm). We also defined plans for the Annual Budget Meetings (1/23 & 1/30 at 9:15am) and the Annual Congregation Meeting (1/30 10:30am) and required pre-work.

Approvals:

We approved the Personnel Committee's proposal for 2022 non-rostered staff compensation. We approved the following new members: Sean and Tamlyn Polson and their sons Tayven, Alec and Kyler, Mike and Betty Strom, Koby Hillman, and Sue Hillman. It is always exciting to welcome new members! We approved the Thanksgiving Special Offering as 50% to Humble Dwellings and 50% to ELCA World Hunger. Council approved the Christmas Special Offering as 50% to Lutheran Services in Iowa and 50% to Lutheran Disaster Response (where needed).

We invite your feedback.

As always, it is beneficial for us to hear directly from our members to support our work. Please feel free to contact any council member directly, or by emailing the church (a council member will then call you back).

We are excited to announce our Mutual Ministry Team Members: Tim Broberg, Terry Fenn, Mary Moore, Amy Murray, HO Nelson, Annette Tomlinson.

These teams members and our pastors will work together to strengthen the life and mission of our church with mutual communication, growth, accountability, and vision.

The committee will meet four times a year and is responsible for:

- Evaluating how effectively the goals of the congregation (set by council) are being met for both ministry within the congregation and to the world (including our immediate community).
- Making recommendations to the council, other committees, and/or the congregation as a whole. The committee is not directly responsible for the fulfillment of the congregational goals, but rather routinely monitors the effectiveness of the congregation's ministry.
- Serving as a source of support and care for the staff and other leaders within the congregation, for example, in times of personal or church role based stress, needs for spiritual self care, growth and development.
- Serving as a focus group, representative of the congregation, as leaders and staff share ideas for ministry and seek to assess how best to accomplish ideas. This committee is not the 'gate keeper' of change or ministry ideas, however, the committee serves as a 'sounding board' and offers suggestions.

Please join us in lifting up this new committee with our support and prayers!

YOUR GIVING MATTERS!

As summer moves into fall, the change of season provides a great opportunity to evaluate your personal support of Faith Lutheran. Your contributions support all of the amazing activities taking place, including weekend services, youth and adult Christian education, outreach into our community, and support of deserving organizations. In addition to general operating expense, Faith has committed to support the North Scott Clergy, Iowa City Chaplaincy, Lutheran Lakeside and the Seminary Student Fund before the end of 2021.

The members of Faith Lutheran have a long history of generous support of our church. The trend at Faith is for revenue to lag over the summer and then catch up in the fall. At the end of September, offerings totaled \$242,004 compared to expenses of \$245,576. To date in October our offerings are still trending behind annual expenses. Please consider making an extra gift or increasing your weekly/monthly offering in support of the impactful activities at Faith.

Giving for 2021 must be in the office by noon on December 30th.



This year's Special Thanksgiving Offering will be split between ELCA World Hunger and Humble Dwellings. Information about these organizations is available on our web page.

If you wish to contribute toward Christmas poinsettias that will decorate the altar area this year, please sign-up on the sheet on the bulletin board in the narthex area, through the link on our web page, or online at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/805094EABA62CAAF85-poinsettias1>

We are asking for a contribution of \$9.00 to help offset the cost of the plants. **Please indicate 'flowers' on your envelope so we know how to allocate the funds.** Names will be published in the Christmas Eve worship bulletin.



of the many scenic areas at the camp. Some even commented that this was a great time to spend away from their work responsibilities and families.

Throughout the years, many lasting friendships and experiences were shared doing Mission work at Lutheran Lakeside Camp. When asked to share some of the highlights of these trips, this is what they had to say:

TOM BAUER – “Rehabbing the cross at the Camp entry sticks in my mind. Every year, there are new projects.”

DONNA DARNELL – “Michelle and Tom were bringing HO down the dock. Music was playing in the background and all three were dancing all the way down the dock. Also Brad Merrick used to repair camp bicycles and take kids on early morning bike rides. I can't say enough about the individuals who make camp happen!”

CARRIE KEPPY – “It is a special place with a lot of history and a story to tell. You never know what it's like unless you go there.”

NINA LOONEY – “I was at Lutheran Lakeside as a child, then as a counselor after freshman year of college. It is a great place for kids to spend time with God and nature. Everything is a highlight. I enjoyed spending time with the High School kids, and seeing that they were all in with the projects they were assigned.”

MICHELLE MESS – “My greatest memory was in 2019, when the adults painted the propane tanks! Every Mission adult participated, whether they were artists or not. The results were so good! The camp loves it when we come, because we are a creative and organized group. We get a lot done and have fun doing it.”

MARY MOORE – “Having just lost my husband last year, I was at a place in my life where a different experience was needed. I needed something else to think about, so I asked Pastor Carrie if I could ride along. I think what touched me the most was the last morning; the counselors had everyone join in a large circle. They then had everyone join by holding part of a big ball of yarn. We were all connected by the same string. Then they cut the yarn between each person. They told us to take the yarn home and begin our own chain. Also Ranger Z was such a sweet person. Never criticized, but complemented the kids, and made suggestions of how a job could get done easier.”

HO NELSON - “I brought a football along, and the boys loved it! I looked forward to the evening, so I could socialize with the kids. I always made them laugh. We had a rolling good time!”

DENISE WESTENDORF – “I liked the adventure! I was able to do things differently than I would have at home. I used power tools and operated the lift, then turned THAT over to Tom!”

Would you like to be a part of this fun next summer? Join our group of adults on July 17-22, 2022. For more information, contact Pastor Carrie.

Recap graciously written and respectfully submitted by Joni King

Camp Wrap-Up



39 energetic youth from Faith Lutheran Church arrived at Lutheran Lakeside Camp July 18 for a week of fun and fellowship. In addition to this group of young people, adult first timer, Mary Moore, joined veteran camp mission trip adults, Tom Bauer, Donna Darnell, Carrie Keppy, Nina Looney, Michelle Mess, HO Nelson and Denise Westendorf. These adults traveled to the camp to do volunteer work in

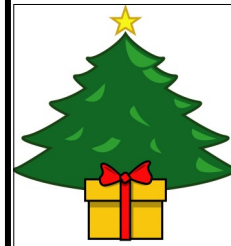
whatever capacity the camp needed. This is a recap of Lutheran Lakeside, through the eyes of these special adults.

After taking pictures and a prayer for a safe trip, 8 vehicles left the church on July 18. The caravan then proceeded to Lutheran Lakeside, stopping once to eat a box lunch at St. Peter Lutheran Church In Pocahontas, Iowa, along the way. Once they arrived at their destination, the students unloaded the vehicles and everyone proceeded to their cabins. The adults were assigned rooms in the Lodge, a large building with bedrooms on both sides, a common living room area, small kitchen and bathrooms. The men were assigned rooms to one side, and the women to the other, with 3 adults to each bedroom. Also sharing the lodge were two additional pastors.

Most of the work was done in the morning. HO Nelson and Donna Darnell were assigned jobs in the office, sorting and filing camper applications and doing some computer work. The other adults repaired hinges and rope systems on all of the cabin windows and spent time repairing the planter at the entrance of the camp. They pulled out rotten cut-off telephone poles and replaced the broken Plexiglas in the planter, in preparation for new landscape work that would be done next year. The adults also power washed and put a coat of polyurethane on the propane tanks (in 2019 our group, with the help of Joni Schneider, transformed plain white propane tanks to fun objects - a Yellow Submarine, a hotdog, a watermelon with a lady bug and butterfly and an aquarium). Manning saws, branch loppers and doing good old hard physical labor, they worked with our High School Mission kids to haul brush and clear trails, creating space for the new Frisbee golf course. (Ranger Z was thrilled that Carrie Keppy could operate a tractor!) They also helped to serve meals and clean up afterwards.

After lunch, these adults had their choice of camp activities with the kids; tie-dying shirts, crafts in the Craft Barn, swimming, sailing, zip-lining, rock climbing, roller skating, or just hanging out and relaxing.

Following supper, time was spent in groups, first playing games with the Faith Lutheran group, then with the camp group as a whole, doing more swimming, boating, and riding boogie boards, culminating every night with the entire group around the campfire for prayer, singing and generally wind-down time. Often, the adults spent this time getting to know our other adult Mission workers, either in the quiet of their lodge, or in one



GIVING TREE

Give something unexpected this Christmas! The Service in the World Committee is asking for your support of this year's Christmas Project through the ELCA Good Gifts program. In Christ, we receive the gift of God's love. Let us share God's love with others.

ELCA Good Gifts are a fun, meaningful way to honor friends and family with Christmas gifts that go on to make a difference in the world. Choose from more than 50 gift-giving options (goats, anyone?), each with the ability to make real, lasting change in the life of someone in need. Give in honor of someone special and you can print, mail or email a card to let them know.

The animals of God's Global Barnyard are among some of the most popular gifts in the catalog. Your gifts to God's Global Barnyard support the sustainable development ministries of ELCA World Hunger, which include training, education, resources (and much more) to help the community care for animals and create new market opportunities like starting a small business selling eggs, meat or dairy products. Your gifts support this comprehensive approach to animal husbandry.

Good Gifts also has gifts that make a difference in the lives of people around the world, such as bibles, vaccinations, school supplies, school uniforms, water filters, backpack food programs, and more!

Giving is easy! A "Giving Tree" will be set up in the gathering area during Advent. Select an ornament with a symbol of the item you wish to purchase, place it on the tree and place your donation in the drop box. We will have a selection of cards available for you to use to let friends and loved ones know about ELCA Good Gifts that have been given in their honor. That's it! No crowds to fight, no shortages to contend with, and no delivery worries!

Thank you for your generosity during the holidays to help abate world hunger!

Service In the World



Chicks Goat Cow



Thanksgiving

With Appreciation...

Thank you for the many blessings you showered on the Pastors and Staff during October! We feel very loved and appreciated!

Thank you to our Ambassador Folding Crew in September: Carol Strobbe, Carol Marten, Carol Judge, and Donna Benskin.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 5:30-8:30 pm Lion's Club Mtg. (FH)	2 1pm Bible Study 5:30 Food Pantry 6:30 pm VFW (FH) 7pm Jubilation	3 5pm Confirmation Meal 5:30 Confirmation 6:15 People of Praise 7pm High School Youth 7:15pm Resounding Joy!	4 6:30pm Team Night	5 9:30am Food Pantry 	6 5pm Worship in Sanctuary & Online 
7 All Saints Sunday 8am Worship 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship 	8 5:30-8:30 pm Lion's Club Mtg. (FH)	9 1pm Bible Study 5:30 Food Pantry 7pm Jubilation	10 5pm Confirmation Meal 5:30 Confirmation 6:15 People of Praise 7pm High School Youth 7:15pm Resounding Joy!	11 Team Reports Due 7pm Executive Committee Mtg.	12 9:30am Food Pantry 	13 5pm Jubilation Worship in Sanctuary & Online 
14 8am Jubilation Worship 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship 7pm COVID Committee (Zoom)	15	16 9am Quilting (FH) 1pm Bible Study 5:30 Food Pantry 7pm Faith Connects	17 5pm Confirmation Meal 5:30pm Confirmation 6:15pm People of Praise 7pm High School Youth 7:15pm Resounding Joy!	18 7pm Church Council Meeting Zoom 	19 9:30am Food Pantry  	20 5pm Worship in Sanctuary & Online 
21 Christ the King 8am Worship 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Jubilation Worship	22	23 1pm Bible Study 5:30 Food Pantry	24 <u>No</u> Confirmation Meal or Conversation, No Youth, No Choirs	25  Office Closed	26 Food Pantry Closed Office Closed	27 5pm Worship in Sanctuary & Online 
28 First Sunday of Advent 8am Worship 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship 	29	30 9am Ambassador Folding 1pm Bible Study 5:30 Food Pantry 7pm Jubilation 				